(1) "BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

To Mr Wm McLennan
P.O. Thursday Island Q'ld 12th June 1915

Dear Sir

Referring to your proposed trip to the Northern part of the Territory; Dr. Macgillivray has sent me on your last letter to him, in which you state your terms etc. No doubt you are aware that I was in the scheme with the Dr., & that I had already sent you an advance of £100. After some considerable correspondence upon the subject, the Dr. has decided to withdraw, & to leave the whole business in my hands: I have agreed to finance you, & to receive all the results of your collecting, the Dr. giving me his assurance that you are to be trusted in every way. Yesterday, I wired you as follows; "Doctor Macgillivray who" "retires from the undertaking, mentions your terms, I" "accept same; please await my letter of instructions" "before starting on trip".

I gather from your letter to the Dr., that your terms are £50 (Fifty pounds) per month; you to find everything of course: I agree to this; the time to commence from the date of your sailing from Thursday Island: payments to be made to your credit with any bank you may direct; personally I prefer the Bank of North Queensland, as I am a shareholder. The amount I have already advanced to be debited to you, as two months pay.

Now for your route; I do not care to influence you in any

(1)

"BELTREES," [illegible]
SCONE
N.S.W.

Mr Ian McKinnon
P.O. [illegible] 12th June 1915

Dear Sir

Referring to your [illegible] to the [illegible]
[illegible] of the [illegible] has [illegible] the [illegible]
your last letter to me, in which you state your [illegible]
[illegible] that I was in the [illegible] with the
[illegible] that I had [illegible] that you [illegible]
After some considerable correspondence on the subject,
the Dept. have decided to [illegible] the whole
[illegible] : Please [illegible] to [illegible] you of
[illegible] all the [illegible] of your [illegible], the [illegible]
[illegible] that you are to the [illegible] in [illegible]
[illegible] your letter, "[illegible]
"[illegible] the [illegible], [illegible] I
"[illegible] ; Please correct my letter of [illegible]
"[illegible]"
I further [illegible] your letter to the Dept. that [illegible]
(Fifty Pounds) [illegible] ; you to [illegible]
[illegible] to them; the [illegible] to [illegible] from the [illegible] of your
[illegible] : [illegible] to be [illegible]
to your [illegible] ; [illegible]
I prefer the [illegible] of [illegible]
The [illegible] to be [illegible] to you, on
the [illegible] day.
[illegible] to [illegible] you [illegible]

"BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

To Mr Wm McLennan

Thursday 3d (2) 17th June 1915

any way, & am quite prepared to fall in with your wish to visit the Arnheim Bay district, & the Wessell Islands: this part of the world is quite unexplored ornithologically, & should yield good results: at the same time I understand the blacks are bad, & will need very careful watching.
Unless another rookery is come across I'd like you to visit the one mentioned by H. G. Barnard, & situated about 5 miles to the north of the entrance to the Roper River: at the spot mentioned, vast numbers of Herons were seen breeding towards the end of February 1914. I particularly want the eggs & skins of the Pied Egret (Notophoyx flavirostris) & Allied Egret (Notophoyx aruensis): the Little Egret (Garzetta nigripes) will also be very welcome.
However, I will not attempt to dictate where you are to go, leaving it to you to make for the most likely localities, & when you get to a good place, work it thoroughly without moving about too much: please to bear in mind always that I am more anxious to secure eggs (full, well prepared Clutches) than skins.
Many of the islands where you propose going should be most interesting, & I want you to keep a special look out for Petrels (nesting in burrows), & secure what skins & eggs you can.
You mention an Island, at the south of the Gulf, as being a

Mr Wm McLennan (2)
[illegible] Jr

"BELLTREES" SCONE, N.S.W. 12th June 1915

very
Many of us quite pleased to follow with your work to
near the Southern Bay Marked of the Wessel Islands: the
part of the South is quite unexplored ornithologically, &
should yield good results: at the same time considerable
the blacks we heard of that were very unsuccessful.
Nesting localities are [illegible] I'd like you to visit the
one near [illegible] Capt. S. [illegible] of [illegible] about 3 miles
to the south of the entrance to the Roper River [illegible]
[illegible] that [illegible] of Terns [illegible] breeding grounds
the end of February 1916: I particularly want the eggs of
three of the Pied Egret (Notophoyx picata) & Little Egret
(Notophoyx [illegible]) & the White Egret (Egretta nigripes) will
also be very welcome.
However, I will not attempt to dictate where you are to go,
leaving it to you to make for the most likely localities, &
when you get to a good place, work it thoroughly
instead of moving about too much: Please to bear in mind
always that I am more anxious to secure eggs (but not
neglect Clutches) than skins.
Many of the islands where you perhaps may should be worth
exploring & I want you to take a special look out for Petrels
(nesting in burrows) & secure what skins & eggs you can.
You mention an island, at the mouth of the Gulf, as being a

"BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

To Mr Wm McLennan (3)
Thursday Id

12th June 1915

a

breeding place for sea birds: this is probably Sweers Id off Burketown: I have already had eggs from the place, but that need not prevent your looking it up again.
I should like you to have gone straight across, & miss the South end of the Gulf, but if you prefer the latter route for safety, by all means use it. On the 9th July 1910, I sent two men away from T. I in the "Francis Pritt" (saw them off personally) bound for the Roper River, which place they reached on the 15th: they did very little good in the collecting line, though plenty of birds were seen.
During the early part of 1914 & end of 1913, H.G. Barnard put in a few months for me on the Macarthur, about Borroloola & did remarkably well. So you see I'd prefer you to work north of these rivers, & thus explore new Country. You will probably be too late for Sea Eagles & Ospreys eggs, but I'm not very keen on these, though I'd like a pair of skins of each.
I have a chart of the Gulf, so shall be able to follow your movements: write to me every chance you get, & give full particulars of what you are doing: keep a diary & full notes, so that later on an account of your trip may be written up.
In the matter of collecting skins, I don't wish this done in a

[illegible] (3)
Thursday 12th June

breeding place for sea birds: this is probably driven at off
[illegible]: there when they had eggs from the Place, but that
would not prevent their breeding in it again:
I should like you to have gone though it seems & [illegible] the
South end of the Bay, but if you Prefer the latter walk for
safety, by all means use it. On the 9th July 1910 I sent
two men away from I. I in the "[illegible] Pitt" (then the
[illegible]) [illegible] for the [illegible] [illegible]. Where they
landed on the 15th: they did very little good at the [illegible]
but through plenty of birds were seen.
During the early part of 1911 & end of 1913, [illegible] had
but [illegible] you see in the [illegible], which
[illegible] 15 [illegible]. do you [illegible] Prefer
you to work [illegible] of these [illegible] than [illegible].
You [illegible] Probably [illegible] had [illegible] eggs,
but [illegible] though [illegible] like a [illegible]
of [illegible].
I have a chart of the Bay, so shall be able to follow your
movements: [illegible] to me every chance you get of your
full particulars of what you are doing: [illegible] &
full notes, so that later on an account of your [illegible] may
be written up.
As the matter of collecting [illegible]. I [illegible] that there are a

*In one of the boxes, I forget which, I put a supply of egg data tickets

"BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

To Mr Wm McLennan
Thursday Id (4) 17th June 1915

a
whole sale manner, but I'd like, say, six each of any interesting species that are not too large in size: one or two each of larger sorts will do. I have applied to the Federal Govt for a permit for you to collect & expect to receive it very shortly: this will give you a sort of official standing. A steamer runs (or used to run) every three months from Darwin to Borroloola, you may be able to pick it up & forward your specimens: don't keep these on hand longer than can be helped. Let me have very full data with all eggs taken; sort of nest, tree, height, situation & any other interesting details. Before leaving T. I, let me know what arrangements you have made about letters being sent on to you.

By this mail I send you three boxes by parcel post, they may be useful for forwarding eggs, & now contain the following articles. No 1 box; 3 blowpipes (I have no drills), 2 packages of chip boxes (each larger box containing smaller ones; they are useful to hold small eggs), a supply of wadding, a list of birds, a few envelopes addressed to me, a reel of strong thread, & a small box of screws. No 2: a tin of naphthaline (use this freely to keep insects away from specimens), 300 special skin labels, a six foot metre measure & more wadding. *

No 3 contains two smaller boxes, 750 skin labels, tie on address labels, & paste on address labels. The special labels

"BELLTREES,"
SCONE.
N.S.W.

191

"BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

To/ Mr Wm McLennan
Thursday Island

13th June 1915

Dear Sir

When writing you yesterday I forgot to mention that I consider your trip will take about ten months (10) to carry through & to do me justice in the matter of collecting eggs. It has been proved pretty conclusively that the wet season in that part of the world is the time during which most of the birds breed freely, though some of the species do not appear particular when they nest.

Yours faithfully
H. L. White

"BELLTREES," TELEPHONE STATION
SCONE
N.S.W.

10th June 1912

To Mr Wm. McLennan
[illegible]

Dear Sir

I have been trying [illegible] to mention that I think you will take about ten weeks (10) to carry through & to do me justice in the matter of collecting eggs. [illegible] that the [illegible] in that part of the [illegible] is the time [illegible] of the [illegible], though [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] they are.

Yours faithfully
H. L. White

"BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

To Mr Wm McLennan
P.O. Thursday Island
Q'land

20th June 1915

Dear Sir,

Since writing you last I received the enclosed letter re your collecting trip to the Territory: you should carry it with you until the proper permit reaches you, then return it to me: I know that the Minister has recommended that my application be granted, so it will probably be all right.

I lately hunted up my copy of Flinder's voyage round the Gulf in 1803: he took 105 days to sail from Cape York right round the Gulf to Arnhem Bay, which latter place he records as being a paradise for birds: he pulled up for some weeks at Sweer's Id, at the head of the Gulf, & mentions the birds there.

It is just possible that at Arnhem Bay you may come across that rare pigeon Leucotreron alligator: if you do, I want the eggs & skins most particularly.

If you get into a good collecting locality, I strongly advise your putting in some time there, instead of moving about too much.

Yours faithfully
H. L. White

"BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

To Mr William McLennan
Thursday Island

25th June 1915

Dear Sir,

I enclose a further communication re your permit to collect, better carry it until the permit itself reaches you; then return it to me. I am arranging to have the latter addressed to you at Thursday Island. I presume you will if possible have your mail matter sent on; I'll go on addressing you to T.I.

Thinking you may be short of an egg drill, I enclose what is supposed to be a good make. Don't forget to keep a look out for Petrels.

Wishing you every success.

Yours faithfully
H. L. White

"BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

To Mr Wm McLennan
Thursday Island

22nd Augt 1915

Dear Sir

Upon the off chance of this being sent on to you, I write a few lines to say that the £50 you asked me to place to Credit of your a/c with the Q. N. Bank, is now being sent along to Thursday Island, so as to be on hand well before the date (1st Octr) you named. Beyond the amount mentioned above you did not state what you wish done with your money as it becomes due: Am I to send it regulary to T. I: or shall I hold it pending a final settlement? I am perfectly willing to do whatever you wish.

I have been hoping to hear from you as you passed along the South of the Gulf, but up to the present nothing is to hand: however I know from painful experience that mails are not to be depended upon from that part of Australia. A brother of mine who is very largely interested in Gulf Stations, posted letters at Normanton lately, & left a fortnight later per motor car: he reached here before his letters.

Hoping to hear from you before long.

Yours faithfully
H. L. White

"BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

To Mr W. McLennan
Thursday Island
26th Septr 1915

Dear Sir

Yours of the 8th Augt, posted at Borroloola, reached me last week only: postal facilities from the Territory are certainly not of the best.
I am sorry to note that you did not have much luck during July, let us hope it has since changed for the better. The take of Frigate birds eggs was a good one, I hope you secured some skins. G M Mathews has lately written up the genus, & explodes many of our old ideas & theories: he makes the Western Australian bird different to the Eastern, so I am anxious to see where the Gulf form comes in.
I did not expect you to take any Egrets eggs at the Archer river, as I think the natives misled you in stating that the birds bred in July. I am quite sure that the breeding season on the west of the Gulf is during Jany–Feby, why should the East be different? If you are quite sure of your facts with regard to the breeding organs of the birds you examined, it of course upsets my theory very considerably; but I am very hopeful of your making a good haul at the Roper in February.
I hope you are keeping full notes of all your doings, as I

"BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

26th Feby 1915

Mr W. H. [illegible]
Thursday Island

Dear Sir

Yours of the 8th Aug & photos of [illegible], reached me last week only; print positives from the negatives are certainly not of the best.

I am sorry to note that you did not have much luck during July, let us hope it has since changed for the better. The take of Frigate Bird eggs was a good one, I hope you secured some skins. Mr Mathews has lately written up the genus of [illegible] naming of one [illegible] his [illegible], to make the Thursday Island bird different to the [illegible], so I am anxious to see whether the bird from there is.

I did not expect you to take any [illegible] eggs at the [illegible] River, as I think the natives misled you in stating that the birds breed in July. I am quite sure that the breeding season on the coast of the Gulf is during January etc. Why should the last be different? If you are quite sure of your facts with regard to the breeding season of the birds you mentioned, it of course upsets my theory very considerably; but I am very hopeful of your making a good haul at the River in February.

I hope you are keeping full notes of all your doings, as I

"BELLTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.

To Mr W. McLennan
Thursday 3rd (2) 26 Sept 1915

wish to publish an account later on. Be very careful to secure skins of everything you come across, & a series of anything you are at all doubtful about: Mathews is to share with me, so I'll require a good many. Eggs of course I want first of all, but we must have skins to identify them by. If you come across a Butcher bird in the Territory, secure specimens of it.

It is not much use my telling you what to do in the collecting line, as this may not reach you for months, also you are no "chummy" at the game & should have a good idea what to do & what to leave alone. From the fact of your mentioning the bird, you are evidently looking for Petrels on the islands, I'd much like to come across something new in this line.

I have not had a line from Dr Macgillivray for months, he is always a busy man, & therefore a poor correspondent.

By this mail I send you a bundle of illustrated papers which may be of interest in your out of the way part of the world.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully
H. L. White

I sent you £50-- to T. I. some time ago.

"BELTREES," (TELEPHONE STATION)
SCONE,
N.S.W.
9 Feb. 1915

Mr. W. [illegible]
Merriwa [illegible]

(2)

wish to publish in a [illegible] later on. Be very careful to
secure photos of every thing you come across of a descr-
of everything you are at all doubtful about: Mention
it to them with me, as I'll require to [illegible] memory.
Copy of orders I wrote first of all, but we must have
others to accompany them by. If you come across a
Victorian bird in the dormitory, secure a specimen of it.
It is not much use my telling you what to do in
the collecting line, as this may not reach you for
sometime, also you are no "Greenhorn" at the game &
know the ropes as well what to do & what to leave
alone. From the fact of your mentioning the bird you
are evidently looking for Petrels on the islands, I'd much
like to come across something new in this line.
Have not heard a line from Mathews regarding the records,
he is always a busy man, & therefore a poor correspondent.
By this mail I sent you a bundle of illustrated
papers which may be of interest as you are out of the way
part of the world.
With best wishes.

Yours faithfully
H. L. White

I sent you £50 to S. J. some time ago.